

Public Hearing: April 23, 2001

F A C T S H E E T

TITLE: FEMA Mitigation Grant Program
Floodplain Conservation Easements

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities

OPPONENTS: Unknown.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:

Parks & Recreation Dept.
Finance Dept.
Urban Development Dept./Real Estate Div.
Planning Dept.
County Commissioners

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

APPLICANT: Public Works & Utilities

REASON FOR LEGISLATION: The purpose of this resolution is to ratify the Mayor's signature on the State-Local Contractual Agreement with the State of Nebraska for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. It will also transfer appropriations and cash for the City's share of the local match from the Disaster Recovery (FEMA) Fund No. 00195, '97 Storm Recovery/Business Unit No. 18029 to the Grants In-Aid Fund/Wilderness Park Conservation Easements/Business Unit No. 240801 to implement this program.

D I S C U S S I O N

Purpose of Project:

Purchase of permanent conservation easements to restrict the use of the land to permanent open space to:

- 1) prevent future property damages for floodplain properties that would otherwise be expected to develop in the future; and
- 2) preserve the flood storage capacity of the 100-year floodplain to prevent an increase in the flooding of properties downstream along Salt Creek.

This project is made possible by a \$1.1 million grant recently awarded by FEMA to the City of Lincoln. The target area for this project is the 100-year floodplain of Salt Creek, generally south of Wilderness Park, as shown on the attached map. All conservation easements must be purchased on a voluntary basis. This project is also conditioned upon no easements being purchased within the South Beltway corridor. The time period for the completion of this project is two years and there is a 25% local match which is being shared by the City and County.

The implementation of this project will be closely coordinated with the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Grant recently awarded to the Parks and Recreation Department for the purchase of conservation easements and/or fee simple title of floodplain property surrounding and to the south of Wilderness Park (see attached NET project description). The Public Works & Utilities Department is currently working closely with the Lower Platte South NRD, the Parks and Recreation Department, and other

City and County departments to prioritize properties within this floodplain corridor and to determine where fee simple acquisition may be more desirable than the purchase of conservation easements.

Steps for the implementation of these programs are generally as follows:

1. Property identification and prioritization;
2. Identification of preferred type of acquisition (fee simple or conservation easement);
3. Identification of program funds (NET or FEMA);
4. Contact property owners and identify interested parties;
5. Complete appraisals;
6. Conduct negotiations with property owners;
7. Purchase of conservation easements or fee simple title.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: No

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: \$1,466,667

LOCAL CONTRIBUTION: \$366,667

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

CITY: \$183,333.5

NON CITY: \$1,283,333.5

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

Allan Abbott, Director of Public Works & Utilities

